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By Mike Sunnucks

U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell, D-Ariz., is co-sponsoring a bill aimed at bolstering international tourism in the U.S. and Arizona.

The Travel Promotion Act, House Resolution 2935, would create the Corporation for Travel Promotion to promote increased international travel to the U.S. via advertising. The CTP would be an independent, nonprofit corporation.

Foreign tourism declined after the 9/11 terrorism attacks and resulting security changes. Tourism this year is threatened by the U.S. recession and fears related to the H1N1 flu.

Scottsdale Convention and Visitors Bureau President Rachel Sacco supports the bill. "Congressman Mitchell's work on this bill underscores his tremendous support for the tourism industry in Arizona," she said in a press release put out by Mitchell's office. "Hotel workers, waiters, retail store owners, and all of the other workers whose jobs rely on tourism have been impacted by the decline in travel. This bill will help bring in new visitors and new business to Arizona, which in turn will stimulate the local economy and put people back to work."

Mitchell's district includes Ahwatukee, Tempe and Scottsdale, home to numerous resorts.